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### Griz, 'Cat alumni associations claw for more members

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Nov. 18, 2008

**Contact:** Samantha Kemp, UM Alumni Association membership coordinator, 406-243-4754, [samantha.kemp@umontana.edu](mailto:samantha.kemp@umontana.edu).

### **GRIZ, 'CAT ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS CLAW FOR MORE MEMBERS**

#### **MISSOULA -**

The University of Montana and Montana State University-Bozeman alumni associations are engaged in their own Brawl of the Wild -- competing to see which organization can gain the most members by the end of the year.

The UM Alumni Association was challenged by its MSU counterpart last month, and Griz staffers responded with a variety of campaigns to encourage current members to renew their membership and new members to come on board to the organization.

"Dues paid by our alumni members support many association programs, including scholarships, outreach and other services," said Susan Cuff, UM Alumni Association associate director. "We're counting on our terrific alumni to help us beat the Bobcats in our membership drive."

Founded in 1901, the UM association originally served 24 members. Today the organization reaches 75,000 alumni and friends -- about 6,600 are dues-paying members -- helping them stay connected to UM through events like Homecoming, class reunions, career services, international travel programs and the Montanan alumni magazine. UMAA also intends to launch a new social networking program for alumni in the near future.

UMAA membership is not limited to alumni. The organization includes a category for



supporters who didn't attend the University but want to support the association's programs.

Memberships range from an annual to a lifetime. Contact the association at 877-UM-ALUMS or 406-243-5211 or sign up online at <http://www.grizalum.com>.

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